

***Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board Meetings***  
***Minutes***  
**June 9, 2008**

**Members:** Alan Bowser, Debbie Spielberg, Darian Unger, Marilyn Seitz, Lucinda Lessley, Mark Woodard, Megan Moriarty, Kathy Stevens, Phil Olivetti, Mitch Warren, Mary Pat Spon, Evan Glass and Tiffany Graham-Golden Deborah Linn, Cassandra Ford, Jerry Yokoyama, Fran Rothstein, and Victor Weissberg

**Members Absent:** None

**Call to Order and Introduction:** Debbie Spielberg, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. members and attendees introduced themselves.

**Approval of Minutes:** The Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board approved the May 12, 2008 minutes.

**Library Discussion**

Debbie Spielberg stated that the Board was trying to gather information and decide what the appropriate role of the Board is. We are supposed to be the voice of the community but are trying to figure out how we can be the most helpful. We have many questions but the two top questions of concerns are as follows:

1. Differences between the County Executive and Council about how they envision the library moving forward?
2. The Program of Requirements (POR), this information is old and what is ultimately designed may not be adequate.

Councilmember Valerie Ervin thanked the Board members for inviting her to the meeting. The library is obviously, important to everyone and Silver Spring residents have waited a long time. Council has numerous concerns and I have brought bullet points that I will go through this evening to give you a picture of why full Council had the conversation about the design money, the charrette, the PDF file, and how we changed the language.

I thought it would be beneficial for Council to see additional design concepts before allocating full design. My office staff met with Council staff that brought to our attention that the initial design concept of the library was that it would be part of a mixed-use development and what we received was a stand-alone library. We thought in light of what we believed the concept was for Fenton Village that a stand-alone library would not be beneficial to the community. Council does have the ability to withhold the money. We know affordable housing is a critical component of the Fenton Village vision and Council asked for a list of advantages and disadvantages related to each design so that we all know what we are getting by selecting a certain option. What we thought we were getting was a stand-alone library with no options for anything else and there is

no way to reconstruct once you build the building. We are discussing the corner of Wayne and Fenton where the library in this particular concept plan was going to go. It should have some relationship to the people who live in the single family homes and I have concerns about the way the County is building out Fenton Village. I am listening to the people living in the community and there should be some context to the building being built and the surrounding neighborhoods and based on the preliminary drawing we saw Council did not think that it was what we were getting.

Regarding the site specifically is a library that meets the areas current space needs. We first started talking about building a new library ten years ago and now we may need a bigger library. Park and Planning's update clearly suggests that the County consider a larger site and report findings that need to be reviewed by all parties before we presume that the current proposal of 42,000 square feet is appropriate because it may be too small. There is a lot on the table and many conversations that need to take place.

My staff and I proposed to the County Council, HHS Committee which the library falls under that we write into the PDF very specific detailed instruction to the County Executive staff that there has to be a lot of community input into the look, design and concept. We wanted to make sure this was in place before we wrote the check for the design. I think we are all in one accord that this is the right approach to take and don't think there is any problem with that, we held it back and have had great conversations and are ready to move forward. We do not want to hold the library back but want an excellence library in Silver Spring, designed the best way it can be and are excited about what we are going to get. We do want it to fit into the context of the entire Fenton Village community and this is important. I am interested in a green roof and reasonable green space and what we first saw did not include either and it's a County building so we have to be the leaders in design excellence.

The County owns the property and has to do all of those things that we expect private industry to do. There are on-going conversations about where the Purple Line alignment will be, whether there will be a stop on Bonifant and how that is going to be or not incorporated into the library space and that remains to be seen. What we hear frequently in the CBD and the downtown area of Silver Spring is that there is no retail space and what we have here is not what people want and we want to make sure that the project has retail, and the kind of retail the community wants.

Pyramid Atlantic and the library both know there have been numerous conversations going on about relocating Pyramid because they are kind of being thrown out of their current space soon and need to relocate. There are conversations going on I believe between County Executive staff and library about how do we incorporate that art space into the library. I am interested in a space that is a transition between downtown and Fenton Village and one that recognizes Fenton Village will be transit oriented but on a much smaller scale than downtown. Basically that is where we were and we wanted to stop the presses and said where is the community input on this, how big does the library need to be because the original plan is ten years old and our community has grown and 42,000 square feet of library space is not going to be enough. We are going to get an incredible plan and we are looking forward to working with the Executive staff on what this will look like, participating with you in the design charrette and we made sure it was written into the PDF so that it would happen.

**Discussion:**

Mitch Warren stated he did agree that we want a nice size and looking library with ground floor retail which we complain about a lot and mix –use but how much extra time is this process going to take and how much is it going to delay the library.

Councilmember Ervin responded that they actually did not think it would delay the library construction very much, maybe a year at the maximum. Clearly a stand-alone library has some benefits you don't need to partner with a private developer to build a stand-alone library. To have a stand-alone library on the corner of Fenton and Wayne that is a number of stories up and the design drawings we saw had a flat roof and no plans for green roof or green space did not seem like the right thing to put there without having the entire thing conceptualized. It is not just the library but a lot of Bonifant is going to be part of the mixed use development.

Darian Unger stated that he was concerned that Parker Hamilton, Library Director is basically not interested in looking at a larger library size or discussing population issues and only has an interest on programmatic issues. I am concerned that the library department might be digging in its heels on this. I am asking you to keep this in mind because you agree new demographics should be included. As we look at the idea of splitting this up so there is a separate stand-alone library and a separate building that would have workforce housing, MPDU, retail and all the things we want and potentially a Purple Line station we are losing the green space that we were hoping to have and by splitting it up it has some advantages but some of the disadvantage will manifest itself another fifty years unless we find a way to get green space in there.

Councilmember Ervin responded that this is a better approach than the County Executive and his team just going ahead on their own. If you build in a process where Park and Planning is involved in the overall designing concept and I can say that the new Planning Director and Royce Hanson both believe in design excellence and the concept is to have green space, green roofs and to use all technology and know how to make Fenton Village fabulous and I believe this is the right way to go. People were in hurry to build that library right now without any conversation about what happens around it. This way we pull back and engage all of you and the people that live in the neighborhood around Fenton Village like they are doing at Silver Place with the charette process and the community is very involved. This is good for us to have this kind of conversation and involvement in the library at this level of the game because to say we won't get the green space is not the way. In my conversation with Roland Stanley and Royce Hanson at Park and Planning they are very concerned about the lack of green space in Silver Spring. We are committing ourselves as new project come on line that we pay close attention to some of the overall scheme not just building buildings by themselves that don't have any relationship to the community around them.

Jerry Yokoyama asked about the letter written by Erin Logan stating they wanted the library built by 2010 is there any sort of significant to that date or a relationship between other projects.

Erin Logan responded they selected that date because we wanted to be reasonable and an additional two years seemed fair. The County Executive indicated he wanted this library in operating capacity before the end of his term.

Councilmember Ervin stated that this should happen before the end of the County Executive term. If we all work together, have a vision and move forward with the County Executive staff there should be no reason to believe it would be delayed and the full Council is very much in agreement with this plan. If you look around Silver Spring one of the things of concern is the conceptual design that has been lacking in Silver Spring where you see a variations of building in difference shapes, sizes so what is the look for Silver Spring going to be. We need to be considering the design of Fenton Village and the rest of Silver Spring, we have the opportunity to stop the presses and weigh in.

Deborah Linn asked does the plan for the entire site need to be designed before the library is in the ground.

Councilmember Ervin responded that she did not think every piece of the project has to be designed but the concept does. For example wherever the library is placed how big is the library going to be, is 42,000 square feet big enough for the library and this has not been determined so numerous things need to be considered. The only plan Council had was to send it back to the Executive and say that you have to work with the Silver Spring community in the charrette process to come up with ideas for how to proceed. The Executive team and whoever needs to get a developer to build some part of the affordable housing piece and Council writes the check and we wanted to see another plan.

Gary Stith stated a stand-alone library does not mean just a library it could include the arts space, some first level retail space because we are talking about raising the library up and bridging over into the parking garage for easy access to parking. The concern of the County Executive is if the library and the housing are on top of each other then the housing drives the schedule and not the library and as you are aware if the residential development is designed at the same time you design the library and find a developer.

Councilmember Ervin responded the point of having the charrette process is that nobody said the housing had to go on top of the library. Somehow there is an incorporated plan where the library may be next to the housing and what we are saying is give us a conceptual framework for what you are going to do on Bonifant. I am trying to straighten this out because I am not saying that there is going to be a developer that is going to develop with the County on top of the library because it may not look anything like that.

Gary Stith stated they will come up with several different concepts through the design charrette process and work with the community and report back to Council. There are pros and cons to any configuration and they will be laid out for everyone. There are at least three different conceptual ways this can be done, library with nothing over it except an arts space, library that has part of something else over the top and it is designed so it could take that at some future point and a library that has a building going right up over it and these are the three variations and of course anything in between. There are a lot of different ways to do this and through the design charrette process we will lay out different approaches, look at pros and cons, work with the community and Council and come up with a design that makes the most sense.

Councilmember Ervin responded: Councilmember Marc Elrich and I will be meeting with PREZCO. We both took to full Council the concept called Form Based Zoning and we are interested in looking at this. They have done this in DC and other places around our Region. Form Based Zoning is where we decide this is the look we want and that is the form so if you engage with the developer he does not come to the table and say here are my drawings we say no you are going to build according to this form and this is something we are starting to kick around here in Montgomery County although it is not really done here. If you look at places like Kentland or Lakeland some of it is formed based where they said this is the look of our community and we want to keep in line with that. Anything you think is doable or might work on that space, charrette's are a great way to bring great ideas to the table and a good place for people living here in the community who will use the library and live in walking distance to weigh in. Another concern is as you are walking down Fenton and you build a five story stand-alone library that the context of a really tall building right on the corner would overshadow and block out views from the neighborhood there.

Deborah Linn stated if you end up with the concept that the housing drives the library there will be no library.

Councilmember Ervin responded that the housing is not driving library but it is part of the overall plan of the rest of the street. We have already allocated money to buy the site and are ready to get this process underway. The way it was approached we did not like it and it did not work for Council because we have already seen instances where building are going to be design and then realize it does not fit and you don't go back and get the fixes as much as we all want a beautiful fabulous library here in Silver Spring we want to do it right.

Fran Rothstein stated that when she moved here in 1982 the schools were already under capacity for the demographic projections. It is very clear that the size of the library, size of the reading rooms and number of computers is not based on current projected demographics and parking as well so what is the plan to make sure the library is using projections as opposed to ten years ago demographics.

Councilmember Ervin responded that this is part of the on-going conversation and what are we looking at and who is driving what decision. These conversations will be fully underway in the next couple months.

Alan Bowser stated that he and Evan Glass attended the Silver Place charrettes and it is an interesting process but not very democratic at the end of the day. We did notice while there was some community participation there was not a lot so it is incumbent upon groups like this, County Executive, County Council, Friends of the Library and Civic Associations to try and bring as many people to the table so their voices get heard. At the wrap up session on Saturday a women showed up and complained it was the same people in the room.

Councilmember Ervin responded that she has been frustrated about a lot of the processes in terms of the way we make decisions in the County and everybody is not always at the table and it is really hard to go out and do that kind of outreach. Impact Silver Spring has been doing great outreach around some of the transportation projects but it requires that we be very diligent. In

terms of library use people that work in libraries know who comes first and it is the people that are non-English speaker and immigrant and we need to get them out to these charrette's because they are the end-users so we need to figure out a way to do this kind of outreach.

Debbie Spielberg stated that the Board was trying to figure out what their appropriate role is and a charrette is challenging and maybe there is a role for all these groups to try and bring in some of those voices.

Councilmember Ervin responded that the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board was important to the process because they are representing a block of the greater Silver Spring community. We might want to consider having a sub-group of this larger group to discuss ways to do outreach and have a large attendance for the charrette. I want to work closely with you so all of us will be very proud when we cut the ribbon to our magnificent library.

Gary Stith stated they are talking about splitting the design process into two phases. The first phase will be more of a site plan process where they figure out how the uses can be configured on the site and this would be done through the design charrette process. I think we will have better participation than Silver Place because this library facility will impact the entire community. Once we have come to a conclusion, go to Council and talk about what we think is the best configuration, then we will start looking at designing the building for the library and go through the process of selecting an architect to do that as a separate process from the site planning process. In our experience you can get a firm that is good at site planning or a firm that is really good at designing a building but not necessarily one in the same and there are different sets of skills and that is why we divided this into two processes. The contract for designing the building and doing construction is a large contract and the process for selecting an architect will take time. We want to start this process quickly and we can do this by looking at site planning as a separate step which is the charrette.

Rita Gale, Department of Libraries stated that it was their understanding that the first thing we need to do is provide a set of options on how the land of the entire site can be used. Council has been very specific about what the process should be and given us timeframes for providing reports. There is a report due in September 2008, March 2009 and one other report that Council wants to hear from us about. Options have to be developed for how the entire site is going to be used and that is what Councilmember Ervin talked about pictorially. What is the site going to look like, what are the pros and cons of all the options? For example one of those things could be we are only going to put the library on piece of the site and have other buildings to include affordable housing and retail for all of the things that have been talked about for the site so it is an entire site development. Council wants to know how all those pieces are going to look on the site and what we have to provide first and this is a piece of what the charrette process will be.

From the public library point of view this is part of what we always do when we plan to build. You can talk to people in Gaithersburg and Olney where we are doing renovations. We wrote the Program of Requirements (POR) at the same time six years ago. The first thing we did was go to the community and ask what do you like about the current facility, what don't you like about the current facility and what would you like to see in this building that you don't see now, we took that feedback and put it into the (POR) and put spatial concepts with it. The Gaithersburg library

went from 4500 square foot addition to an 18,000 square foot addition base community input they wanted in terms of services and collection and not in terms of the demographics. I know you all feel strongly about the demographics but what we asked the community was what would you want to see in that building, what kind of collection do you want, computers and that is what we need to figure out space? There are a million people in Montgomery County but not all will use the library. What we want to know is what are people potentially coming to the library going to want to use and that information will be used to plan the space. In order to provide the concept about what the library will need we will have to discuss that with the community before we go to Council to say here is the concept on the site use.

The library is one component of what will be on the site but in order for us to tell Council that we need this much space for the library piece of the site we are going to need to hear from the community. The letter written by Erin Logan is a good beginning and we are going to use the information but want the entire community to be heard because there are people that are not involved with any Board or Committee. We would normally do at least three public meetings to talk to the community about what they want to see in the new library and needs to be factored in before we go back to Council or meet with whomever is going help with the planning to see exactly what kind of building requirements are needed. We could start this process over the summer and I am doing a public meeting next week in Gaithersburg to discuss their design and hopefully do a public meeting in Clarksburg in June.

In Silver Spring as soon as we can pull together a meeting and location we can definitely have discussions. The other piece of importance to recognize is that we are going to develop options and the community will be involved in coming up with the options and the pros and cons. We are looking at the library design piece but a part of this is going to be figuring out the options for how the land is used. Once the concept is out about how the land is going to be used somebody will have to make a recommendation on which of those options is going to be the one we proceed with and if one of the option is more than just a library as part of the building there will be pros and cons and it will probably take a little longer because adding things to a building is more complicated. Part of the reason the County decided to suggest a single use facility was when we discussed a 14 story facility that would have a library in it with retail housing and affordable housing you need a developer first to develop the building and then the library and that adds time to the process takes time so if it is a library building it will go faster and this part of what we will say in the pros and cons. If a process with an option is going to take longer Council wants to hear that.

Megan Moriarty stated that it was helpful to understand the process but how is the charrette process going to inform the report you send to Council in September are they totally separate, how can we come up with something that goes to Council that reflects the conversations going on this summer here.

Rita Gale responded there are two things I see happening in public meetings, we have to provide Council with options for the entire site and I assume part of this will be the public telling us conceptually how they feel about how the site will be used. From the library department perspective is we need to get at what are people visualizing and want in the site.

Megan Moriarty asked how the charrette process can feed into the report that will be written.

Gary Stith responded that the reports are dates for when we go back and tell Council where we are in the process and the first report is due September 15. We will not have a recommendation by September for a concept.

Megan Moriarty stated that she was trying to understand so the charrette and that report Rita is talking about is the same process.

Gary Stith responded that these things will happen simultaneously. We can start the POR process first because if the size is going to be bigger we need to know that before we get too far down the road and lay out the land uses.

Rita Gale stated the review of the POR is based on what services and collections are in the building and not strictly on the demographics and I do understand that this is a concern because the community is going to be bigger and therefore we need a larger library. We based it on what is that community going to need in terms of services and again if you read the report written by Erin they have started that process by basically looking at the POR and said the adult reading areas will be this big, well we think it should be bigger and this is the kind of information we need and we can see what kind of collection plugged in there now, what do we need and what is the community telling us that they want in terms of a different collection, figure out the volumes and this translates into space needs which translate into the footprint we need so that is the POR. We always do the POR before we began the process because we have to write the POR as least six years before the project ever gets started because you have to ask for the funding and get it in the schedule so you need to have something in which to base that request and right or wrong that is the POR. We are open and want to hear from the rest of the community.

Evan Glass stated having attended the Silver Place charrette, I found it interesting and the motivation for a lot of dedicated residences that went was to state what they did want the building to look like basically. This process will be totally different because you will have many people saying what they do want the library to look like. What I think will be difficult in reconciling the report on what the needs are and reconciling the outcome of that charrette process. I read the letters and people want more services and a larger library and the charrette process comes out stating purple line will be in the green roof and affordable housing there would be no way to do that unless you build a 15 story building which I don't think we will done anytime soon in the CBD. While the charrette process will be beneficial because you will have everybody coming together and stating what they want and basically weighing their options I don't know how that sort of process would affect what needs were already predetermined.

Gary Stith responded that the library is the most important part of this project and the need of having a library that works for this community comes first. If you noticed at Silver Place what was driving it was the need of Park and Planning for their facility. The library is going to be there first but part of the library site, the piece on Bonifant Street was acquired with housing initiative funds so there will be housing on the site or the County will have to figure out someplace to replace the housing. Housing will be a part of this project but how much housing, how tall it is and all those type of issues need to be dealt with. Form Based Zoning was



mentioned and it takes a lot of time to develop and frankly for this site we don't need it because the County owns the entire site so the County can decide what form it wants working with the community. With Form Based Zoning you develop this process, determine what you want it to look like and what form it will take and then impose that on property somebody is going to develop that is not publicly owned. There is no need to do this because the County owns this property and can say what it is going to look like and how big it is going to be within the zoning envelop that exist in that area and the County does not go outside of current zoning.

Mitch Warren asked about the funding issue and stated that we have a certain amount of funding now and we all want a bigger and better library that is attractive and makes up for the unfortunate Crescent Building built next to it. If there presumably is going to be retail and housing component then the value of the land will bring in some additional revenue how does this play into the availability of money for bigger and better library.

Gary Stith responded that when the County sells off development rights to a developer they have to pay for the right to develop that and the money comes into the County but it does not go into the library project it goes into the County's General Fund. The library and the quality of the library is not dependent upon how much money the County gets off of selling the development rights for this thing. Money off of selling any kind of property rights goes into the General Fund and the appropriation for building the library is totally separate. The County does want to make sure it's taking on its fiduciary responsibilities in a good way and uses County assets appropriately.

Mitch Warren asked if money was going to be a problem.

Gary Stith responded that if the Council agrees that a project is going to get built they will fund it.

Rita Gale responded that the way Council works with all CIP projects is that you come with an estimate on how much it will cost to get through the planning and design piece of the project about 3 quarters of the way through planning and design when you have a fairly good idea about what it will look like, what the construction cost is you go back to Council and say this is the amount we will need in order to make this design a reality.

Gary Stith responded this is different than how the process used to be. When we first funded the Civic Building that was a wild guess because that is the way they funded things then. You went in the first time asked for a project you had to guess how much would be needed for the entire project and we found that we were always wrong. Everybody works now under the understanding that this is a guess whereas in the past the thinking was that's what the budget is so you build to that budget but it never worked.

Deborah Linn asked does demographic play any role in the project. Do you look at the particular population usage of the library?

Rita Gale responded it plays a role initially when we plan libraries. For example in our facilities plan we say we won't put a library in a community until we have x amount population and it

plays a role potentially in terms of how those services that are going in there might be used. We don't build the library strictly on demographic. The Silver Spring population is 80,000 but not all of them will come to the library so what is the potential use of those 80,000 and what are they going to come and use the library for. We do look at the population usage of the library but part of what you all have said is the library is too small so you cannot get the usage. If you said we are going to build the library for 100,000 people I would still have to ask what is it you want us to put in the library for them.

Alan Bowser stated he was concerned about the idea of having three public meeting about the POR before the charrette does not seem like enough time during the summer to effectively have that input on the charrette process. It almost seems like there are these two processes going forward which are going to conflict while the same problem with participation with our summer sessions that we had with Silver Place for different reasons. I ask that you work with Gary Stith, to make sure we are all on the same page because right now I see a bit of a problem

Debbie Spielberg stated that the concern is that public meetings are not a sufficient way to capture public opinion within the community and something we all struggle with and don't exactly know what the answer is but we need to think outside of the box on how do you capture those folks that will not come to a meeting in the evening or their schedule does not work.

Rita Gale responded stated that we could do would be have forms in the library for people to fill out. We could go to where the population might be but we need to know where we need to go to. We have a very diverse community and we will need people to translate

Fran Rothstein asked that they hold a public meeting at the schools.

Rita Gale stated that they were opened to suggestions and if someone wanted to collect them and send to Gary Stith and he will send them to us.

### **Community Comments**

Bob Colvin stated ESSCA is supporting a ZTA on the southeast corner of Fenton Street and Silver Spring Avenue which would be the Marriot Courts and we are looking forward to retail on the first level of that project. We had a meeting with the Moose Lodge about their purchase on the corner of Fenton Street at Philadelphia Avenue and we have some concern about this and asked them what their plans where for the place and they responded they need to transfer their liquor license and I understand there is a ZTA but to the questions of what they were going to do they did not have a response and this is a concern. The ZTA for the block between Silver Spring Avenue, Thayer Avenue, Fenton and Georgia Avenue has been turned down.

Gary Stith responded that the ZTA is not just for that one block but all the Fenton Village Overlay Zone on the west of Fenton Street.

Marcie Stickle stated her concern over the current library building property. On June 27 and June 28 is Heritage Weekend.

Gary Stith responded there has been absolutely no discussion of what will happen to this library property.

Jon Lourie stated reported he would like to echo Councilmember Ervin comment about having a sub-group to help guide this process and it is important to have direct community involvement.

### **Chairs Report**

Debbie Spielberg reported that:

We had a retreat on May 31, 2008 and Mary Pat Spon and I have worked on various part of it and are going to compile it in a easily, readable fashion for all board member so look for this in the next couple of weeks and the Executive Committee will be charged with moving forward with some of the suggestions and proposals.

### **Director Report**

Gary Stith reported that:

There are new banners on Georgia Avenue in the Montgomery Hills area that kind of signals the completion of the project that DHCA has been working on for the past two year.

June 5 there was a groundbreaking for the streetscape improvements on Arliss in the Long Branch Area. Now they are doing the streetscape on the opposite side of the street from the commercial area in anticipation that the commercial side will be dealt with as a part of the redevelopment of that block by the commercial property owners.

Foulger Pratt Construction has been selected to be the contractor for the Silver Spring Transit Center. We anticipate starting construction later this summer. Forrester Construction has been selected as the contractor for the Civic Building.

Silver Spring Swings Summer Concert Series starts this Thursday, 7:00 p.m. at the Silver Plaza and will be for the next ten weeks.

Downtown Silver Spring Project is doing a concert series on Saturday, 6:30 p.m. at the Silver Plaza

SILVERDOCS June 15 - June 23, 2008

Turning Point Mural is being done on New Hampshire Avenue at the county border and Arts on the Block helped put it together and they are having the unveiling on June 17 at 11:00 a.m.

Crafty Bastards, June 28 at Pyramid Atlantic, 10-5 p.m., and is huge event for Silver Spring and have many quality crafters.

### **Election Of Officers**

**Nominating Committee** Marilyn Seitz, Chair, Lucinda Lessley and Debbie Spielberg

Marilyn Seitz stated that Lucinda had written procedures on what we are planning to do and we plan to be open and any nomination will be accepted from the Board.

After hearing each candidate qualifications the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board elected the following as Officers on June 9, 2008:

*Darian Unger - Chair*

*Kathy Stevens - Executive Vice Chair*

*Deborah Linn - Parliamentary Vice Chair*

*Mary Pat Spon – Secretary*

### **Committee Reports**

#### **CED Report**

Phil Olivetti reported that:

The CED Report starts on page 17 and there were no action items. We had great discussions on the library, we had representatives from Park and Planning attend and they gave a more visionary description about green space in downtown Silver Spring. They talked about several areas in downtown that there possibly could be green space and we will invite them to another meeting because there was a lot of information on studies they have done.

A developer came and discussed an amenities package that they are proposing for the Ripley project which is a park with to commemorate former Silver Spring resident Rachel Carson with glass sculptures.

Marilyn Seitz stated they had a concern Rachel Carson was the first environmentalist and the idea that there were some sculpture and things like that but also they were going to do more native plants and make it more of a green place and that is what we really liked but also to keep it to that environmental very green native plant, educational because people are not aware of things she brought up fifty years ago.

**CED next meeting is June 18, and one item on the agenda will be further discussions of the Silver Spring Library.**

#### **Transportation and Pedestrian Safety Committee**

Darian Unger reported that:

The last Transportation and Pedestrian Safety Committee meeting summary starts on page 20.

There was another pedestrian fatality and we try to learn what we can from the ones that have happened.

We contacted the Ride-On Silver Spring depot supervisor and management who will advise bus drivers of speeding concerns on Manchester and they will place a monitor on the route to deter speeding.

We discussed the need for public parking spaces for flex/zip/shared cars and DPWT to progress in the effort to get these spaces in downtown Silver Spring and it is moving and hopefully put out a draft request for proposal on how to do it and it is an extremely lot of red tape to get parking spaces in downtown Silver Spring.

The discussion of bicycle path in Silver Spring was postpone

***The next meeting Monday, June 23 - We will focus on Silver Spring bike trails and Purple Line issues.***

### **Neighborhood Committee**

Alan Bowser reported that:

Thanked Debbie Spielberg for her services as Chair of the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board and the Board has moved forward under her leadership. Congratulation to Darian Unger as selection as new Chair of the Board

Notes of the Neighborhood Committee last meeting start on page 23. We focused mostly on health care issues in Silver Spring. We had a conversation with Dr. Richard Helfrich, Deputy Health Officer, Department of Health and Human Services briefed us on the programs that the County has for underserved and uninsured people and this is included in our notes.

We have a good report from Victor Salazar on Weed and Seed development.

We had an action items that I will withdraw this evening. We produced a letter to the County Executive encouraging the County to conduct an updated Countywide health needs assessment. In talking with Dr. Helfrich, if he had his wish list and more money for the Department of Health and Human Services without hesitation he responded that he would spend the money on a Countywide health assessment. From e-mail discussions today there does not seem to be sufficient support to move this letter forward because it deals with Montgomery County issues broadly so we will revisit this issue.

Alan Bowser stated that he had been chairman of the Neighborhoods Committee for more than four years and thinks it is time to pass the torch to somebody else on the Board. I think it is incumbent for those of us that have been serving as Executive Officers on Committees to share the benefit. I will organize the next several meetings but somebody needs to step-up and assume leadership of the Neighborhoods Committee and the Transportation and Pedestrian Safety Committee. Please pass those suggestions to Darian or me. We have a good group of regular members that attend the Neighborhoods Committee so we have to facilitate some kind of transition.

***The next meeting is Monday, June 16.***

Debbie Spielberg stated that one of the things discussed at the Retreat was if people feel overwhelmed by the number of meetings that one thing the Board could consider in the future is

that we don't necessarily have to have a Committee meeting of every Committee every month because they do the bulk of the work and we also can consider shortening the time of the full Board meeting because so much of the work is done at the Committee level. There are a number of possibility and suggestions that we can consider. I will propose to the Executive Committee that I give a brief update about the Retreat and some of our recommendations at the next meeting.

Deborah Linn stated that she thought the Board or Committees should consider sponsoring some type of broader forum on issues as opposed to having one person this month. I would like to have a forum with multiple people with multiple perspective of an issue at one time in one place to receive more information so there is a more rounded view of what the most important thing is.

Debbie Spielberg stated that this is all a part of how the Board can be more effective in the future and reach some of these goals that we share.

#### **New Businesses**

None

**Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.**

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